

Workers of the World Unite!

The
Constitution
of the
Red International



The American Labor Union
Educational Society

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CONSTITUTION OF THE RED INTERNATIONAL OF LABOR UNIONS.

The class struggle has now reached such a degree of development and acuteness that the working class, in order to successfully conduct and complete its struggle for emancipation, must fight as a solid revolutionary class power, not only on a national but also on an international scale, against the bourgeoisie, who despite the severe competition on the world market, is closely united in its hatred of the proletarian revolution and solidly welded against the slightest attempt of the proletariat to free itself from exploitation. Since the exploitation is international, the fight against it must have an international character. All internationals of labor unions, which existed up to the present moment, at best were but international statistical bureaus for mutual information. The International Secretariat of Labor Unions before the war was merely an information agency, it did not pursue any militant class aims. The Amsterdam International of Labor Unions is even less fit to deal with the issues at hand than its predecessor. The first was but an information office, the latter occupies itself with politics of the worst kind, with antiproletarian, bourgeois politics. It sets forth the idea of class co-operation, social peace and peaceful transition from capitalism to socialism. In its essence it is an international of counteraction to the struggle for emancipation of the working class. Against this international of impotence, confusion, subservience to the bourgeoisie, such as the Amsterdam International is, we must oppose—an international of revolutionary vigor, of class activity—an international which together with the Communist International will organize the working class for the overthrow of capitalism, the destruction of the bourgeois state and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat; an international which will seize all the means of production and establish the Communist commonwealth.

Such a militant labor union international can be built up only by revolutionary class unions, conscious of the purpose and methods of the defensive and offen-

sive struggle against the class enemy. The problem history has put before the revolutionary unions requires the utmost concentration of power, unexampled intensity and the greatest self-sacrifice of the conscious vanguard elements of the working class.

I. Name

The international congress of revolutionary, class-conscious trade and industrial unions, which unites the revolutionary labor union organizations of all countries, decides to create a permanent international organization under the name: The Red International of Labor Unions.

II. Aims and Purpose

The Red International of Labor Unions has for its aims:

(1) To organize the large working mass in the whole world for the overthrow of capitalism, the emancipation of the toilers from oppression and exploitation and the establishment of the socialist commonwealth.

(2) To carry on a wide agitation and propaganda of the principles of revolutionary class struggle, social revolution, the dictatorship of the proletariat and revolutionary mass action for the purpose of overthrowing the capitalist system and the bourgeois state.

(3) To fight against the corruptive ulcer, gnawing at the vitals of the world labor union movement, of compromising with the bourgeoisie against the ideals of class co-operation and social peace and the absurd hopes for a peaceable transition from capitalism to socialism.

(4) To unite the revolutionary class elements of the world labor union movement and carry on decisive battle against The International Bureau of Labor attached to the League of Nations and against the Amsterdam International Federation of Trade Unions, which by their program and tactics are but the bulwark of the world bourgeoisie.

(5) To coordinate and regulate the struggle of the working class in all countries and organize international demonstrations each time, when the situation demands them.

(6) To take the initiative of international campaigns about prominent events of class struggle, to

open subscription lists for the benefit of strikers in great social conflicts, etc.

III. Membership

Any revolutionary economic class organization is eligible to membership in the Red International of Labor Unions if it accepts the following conditions:

(1) Endorsement of the principles of revolutionary class struggle.

(2) Application of these principles in its daily struggle with capitalism and the bourgeois state.

(3) Recognition of the necessity of the overthrow of capitalism through the social revolution and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat for the transition period.

(4) Recognition and submission to the international proletarian discipline.

(5) Recognition and application of the decisions of the Constituent Congress of the Red International of Labor Unions.

(6) The rupture with the Amsterdam yellow International.

(7) United action with all the revolutionary organizations and the Communist Party of the country in all defensive and offensive activities against the bourgeoisie.

IV. International Congresses.

The International Congress of Revolutionary Class Trade and Industrial Unions is the supreme organ of the Red International of Labor Unions. Congresses take place as often as possible—at least once a year. They determine the general principles, program, tactics and statutes; elect the directing organ and decide all the questions connected with the orientation of the Red International of Labor Unions. Extraordinary congresses are called by the decisions of the Executive Bureau or at the demand of organizations representing no less than one-third of the members of the Red International of Labor Unions.

All trade and industrial unions which accept the program and are following the directions of the Red International of Labor Unions have the right to send delegates to the congresses.

The representation is distributed as follows:

Every national organization of trade or industrial

unions, having less than 10,000 members, receives one consultative voice on the congress; national organizations having from 10,000 to 25,000 members send one delegate with a deciding vote; from 25,000 to 100,000 members, two delegates with deciding votes; from 100,000 to 250,000, four delegates with deciding votes; from 250,000 to 500,000, six delegates, and for each additional 500,000 members one delegate with a deciding vote is added. International revolutionary class organizations by trades or industries have the right to two deciding votes each.

Organized minorities in countries have the same representation, but all the organizations of a given country affiliated with the Red International of Labor Unions make up a single delegation, inside of which the votes are divided proportionally to the membership of the respective organizations. Organized minorities and factions have representation on the congress only in the case when the general labor union organization of that country is not affiliated with the Red International of Labor Unions.

V. Organs of the Red International of Labor Unions

The Red International of Labor Unions has two organs—the Central Council and the Executive Bureau.

Central Council.—The Central Council is composed as follows: England, United States, Germany, Italy, Spain, Czecho-Slovakia, Poland and France have two representatives each; Russia has four; all other countries having more than 25,000 have one representative with a deciding vote; countries having less than 25,000 have one representative with a consulting voice. International organizations by trades or industries have one representative with a consulting voice.

The Central Council directs all the work of the Red International of Labor Unions from congress to congress; makes all decisions necessitated by the circumstances; represents the Red International of Labor Unions before the whole world; acts in its name; gathers in its hands all the materials and documents related to the International Labor Movement; manages all funds including the International Fund of Militant Solidarity; publishes papers and magazines in different languages; in short, is the organ invested with the

power to direct the work between the world congresses.

The Central Council meets at least twice a year, dealing mostly with the clearing of questions of principles and leaving all current work to the Executive Bureau.

The Executive Bureau.—The Executive Bureau consists of seven members elected by the Central Council, including two members of the country where the headquarters of the Red International of Labor Unions is

The Executive Bureau directs all the current affairs of the Red International of Labor Unions. It regulates the work of the departments and sections; publishes the official organs of the Red International of Labor Unions; represents the Red International of Labor Unions and the Central Council wherever and whenever it is necessary; and prepares all the questions for the sessions of the Central Council. The Executive Bureau meets at least once a week.

VI. Unity of Action and Unity of Organization

Minorities of general labor unions and of national centers affiliated with the Red International and separate organizations affiliated with it must coordinate all their actions. In case in a given country the general federation of all unions affiliates with the Red International, no other separate organizations can affiliate with it. The revolutionary organizations endorsing the stand of the Red International must join the general labor union organization of their country.

VII. Funds

The funds of the Red International are composed of regular dues paid by the national organizations affiliated with it and of special contributions. The quota of the payments is established as follows: At least 1 per cent of the total income of the organizations which receive into their central treasury 50 per cent of more of the membership dues; at least 2 per cent from those organizations receiving into their central treasury 25 per cent to 50 per cent of the membership dues; at least 3 per cent from those organizations receiving from 10 per cent to 25 per cent of the membership dues, and at least 5 per cent from those organizations receiving less than 10 per cent of the membership dues. located.

Until the creation of the necessary fund, all financial means will be furnished by the general labor organization of the country where the headquarters of the Red International of Labor Unions is located.

VIII. The International Fund of Militant Solidarity

For the purpose of supporting the militant revolutionary struggle of the workers in different countries the Congress decides to establish an International Fund of Militant Solidarity.

This fund is composed of special receipts and special collections and transfer to it of sums from the general fund. Fifty per cent of all the income of the Red International of Labor Unions are turned over directly to the International Fund of Militant Solidarity. This fund is disbursed at the disposal of the Executive Bureau, which gives regular accounts about the disbursements to the Central Council.

IX. Connections with International Trade and Industrial Organizations

The Red International of Labor Unions admits to membership not only general labor union organizations by countries, but also international organizations by trades and industries.

The Executive Bureau shall create a special section of trade and industrial organizations for the purpose of serving the needs of separate industrial organizations and establishing closest possible connections with them. International trade and industrial organizations establish their connection with the Red International of Labor Unions through their special representatives at the International Congresses.

X. Relations with the Communist International

To establish close and unbreakable connections between the Red International of Labor Unions and the Third Communist International, the Central Council:

(1) Sends three representatives to the Executive Committee of the Communist International with deciding votes and vice versa.

(2) Organizes joint sessions with the Executive Committee of the Communist International for the discussion of the most important issues of the international labor movement, and for the organization of common action.

(3) Issues, when it is warranted by the events, joint appeals with the Communist International.

XI. Relations with the International of Revolutionary Cooperatives

For the purpose of coordinated action and mutual information the Central Council of the Red International of Labor Unions sends a representative with a consulting vote to the executive organ of the International of Revolutionary Cooperatives, as soon as it will definitely constitute itself.

XII. Expulsion from Membership

Organizations affiliated with the Red International of Labor Unions which by their action have violated the decisions of the congresses or do not obey the decisions of the Central Council can be expelled by the decision of the Central Council, on condition that the motion of expulsion must be carried by not less than a two-thirds vote.

In case the violation is done by the central organs of a given organization the Central Council of the Red International of Labor Unions must call upon the membership of that organization to consider, in a special conference or congress, the dispute at issue between their leading organ and the Red International of Labor Unions. The question of expulsion is taken up by the Central Council only after the conference or convention of that organization had reached a decision on the question at issue. The expelled organization has the right to appeal from the decision of the Central Council to the next international congress, which may endorse or annul the expulsion.

XIII. Internal Structure

The Red International of Labor Unions designated to direct the struggle of the proletariat and to inform its members of the situation in different countries must adapt its apparatus to the work it must perform. For this purpose the Central Council develops its apparatus by creating such sections and departments as shall be necessary.

For the normal conduct of affairs and close contact of the Red International of Labor Unions with the labor union organizations of different countries, the Red International must establish monthly reports of all the organizations affiliated with it and periodical trips to the most important countries by the mem-

bers of the Central Council, especially in connection with the arising of big economic conflicts.

XIV. Magazine, Bulletin and Information

The Red International of Labor Unions is publishing its official organ in four languages (French, German, English and Russian) and a bulletin in the same languages. Besides those two organs for systematic information and ideological leadership, the Central Council of the Red International shall turn their attention to the system of circular letters and visiting trips to organizations.

XV. Auditing Committee

The Central Council of the Red International of Labor Unions elects an Auditing Committee of three, which supervises the correct expenditure of funds and gives periodical reports to the congresses.

XVI. Location of the Red International of Labor Unions

The permanent location of the Red International of Labor Unions is decided by the congress. The time and place of the congress are designated by the Central Council.

What Every Worker Should Read

- The International Council of Trade and Industrial Unions, by A. Losovsky10 cents**
- The Role of the Labor Unions in the Russian Revolution 5 cents**
- Proceedings of Red Labor International15 cents**
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**The above may be had by forwarding twenty-five cents
to the Book Department of**

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